



Final Regulation Agency Background Document

Agency name	Department of Education
Virginia Administrative Code (VAC) citation	<u>8 VAC 20-70</u>
Regulation title	<i>Regulations Governing Pupil Transportation</i>
Action title	The <i>Regulations Governing Pupil Transportation</i> are being updated to reflect changes in laws and practices.
Date this document prepared	September, 2010

This information is required for executive branch review and the Virginia Registrar of Regulations, pursuant to the Virginia Administrative Process Act (APA), Executive Orders 14 (2010) and 58 (1999), and the *Virginia Register Form, Style, and Procedure Manual*.

Brief summary

Please provide a brief summary (no more than 2 short paragraphs) of the proposed new regulation, proposed amendments to the existing regulation, or the regulation proposed to be repealed. Alert the reader to all substantive matters or changes. If applicable, generally describe the existing regulation. Also, please include a brief description of changes to the regulation from publication of the proposed regulation to the final regulation.

The *Regulations Governing Pupil Transportation* were last revised in 2004. Since that time, statutory provisions have been enacted or amended. Some state and federal requirements have changed since 2004 and need to be incorporated into the regulations.

Substantive changes that are being made to the regulations include: updating definitions as determined by the 2005 and 2010 National Congress on Pupil Transportation; changes in maintenance requirements, changes in reporting requirements on accidents; clarifying the language on pre-trip inspections, training, records retention, reviewing of routes, and operational assessments. Language has been added on prohibiting driving more than thirteen hours in a twenty-four hour period per the Code of Virginia. The Preventive Maintenance Manual and the Physical form have been revised based on the changes to the regulations.

Statement of final agency action

Please provide a statement of the final action taken by the agency including (1) the date the action was taken, (2) the name of the agency or board taking the action, and (3) the title of the regulation.

The Board of Education approved the proposed *Regulations Governing Pupil Transportation* at its September 23, 2010, meeting and granted approval for the Department of Education to continue through the Virginia Administrative Process Act to promulgate these regulations.

Legal basis

Please identify the state and/or federal legal authority to promulgate this proposed regulation, including (1) the most relevant law and/or regulation, including Code of Virginia citation and General Assembly chapter number(s), if applicable, and (2) promulgating entity, i.e., agency, board, or person. Describe the legal authority and the extent to which the authority is mandatory or discretionary.

Article VIII, §4, Constitution of Virginia; Code of Virginia §22.1-176; 22.1-177; 22.1-178; 22.1-181; and 22.1-186.

The scope of legal authority is defined by Article VIII, §4, Constitution of Virginia which vests in the Board of Education the general supervision of the public school system.

Section 22.1-16, <http://leg1.state.va.us/cgi-bin/legp504.exe?000+cod+22.1-16>, Code of Virginia, authorizes the Board to promulgate “such regulations as may be necessary to carry out its powers and duties....”

Section 22.1-177, <http://leg1.state.va.us/cgi-bin/legp504.exe?000+cod+22.1-177>, Code of Virginia, gives the Board general authority to make regulations relating to the construction, design, operation, equipment and color of public school buses and the authority to issue an order prohibiting the operation on public streets and highways of any public school bus which does not comply with such regulations.

Section 22.1-176, <http://leg1.state.va.us/cgi-bin/legp504.exe?000+cod+22.1-176>, and §22.1-186, <http://leg1.state.va.us/cgi-bin/legp504.exe?000+cod+22.1-186>, Code of Virginia, authorizes the Board to promulgate regulations relating to fees for school transportation.

Section 22.1-178, <http://leg1.state.va.us/cgi-bin/legp504.exe?000+cod+22.1-178>, Code of Virginia, additionally sets forth requirements for school bus drivers and authorizes the Board to furnish forms to school divisions to obtain information from applicants for employment as school bus drivers as required in statute.

Purpose

Please explain the need for the new or amended regulation. Describe the rationale or justification of the proposed regulatory action. Detail the specific reasons it is essential to protect the health, safety or welfare of citizens. Discuss the goals of the proposal and the problems the proposal is intended to solve.

The *Regulations Governing Pupil Transportation* are being revised to address new state laws passed since 2004, as well as new federal requirements and national standards. Current state law does not require students to ride public school buses. The revision of these regulations will help to ensure the safety of children riding public school buses. Providing safe, free transportation to and from public school for children in Virginia will reduce the need for parents to transport their children.

Substance

Please identify and explain the new substantive provisions, the substantive changes to existing sections, or both where appropriate. A more detailed discussion is required under the "All changes made in this regulatory action" section.

Substantive changes to the existing regulations include:

1. Definitions have been updated to conform to those in the 2005 and 2010 National School Transportation Specifications and Procedures document.
2. Requirements for school activity buses are clarified.
3. Language has been included prohibiting driving more than thirteen hours in a twenty-four hour period per Section 46.2-812, *Code of Virginia*.
4. Changing the restriction on standees on school buses.
5. Language has been included to change maintenance inspections of buses from every 30 operating days or 2,500 miles to every 45 school days or 5,000 miles.
6. Language has been included regarding the operational assessments conducted by the Department of Education.
7. Language has been included to eliminate the reporting of minor bus crashes by divisions and to begin the posting of crash data on the Department of Education web site.
8. Language has been added to review bus routes as changes occur.
9. Language has been included on the use of non-sequential lighting system use at railroad crossings.
10. Language has been included on transporting disabled children attending special education programs.
11. Language has been included on records retention for pupil transportation records.
12. Language has been included providing further explanation of training and including new transportation directors in this training.
13. Language has been included for instructors to meet the requirements of a school bus driver and to have maintained a Class B license for two years.
14. Language has been included providing further explanation of what should be covered in in-service training.
15. Language has been clarified on pre-trip safety inspections and the procedure has been outlined in the Preventive Maintenance Manual.
16. The Preventive Maintenance Manual has been updated to reflect the changes in the maintenance of school buses and activity buses.

17. Language has been added to the Physical form outlining duties that may be required of school bus drivers.

Issues

Please identify the issues associated with the proposed regulatory action, including:

- 1) the primary advantages and disadvantages to the public, such as individual private citizens or businesses, of implementing the new or amended provisions;*
 - 2) the primary advantages and disadvantages to the agency or the Commonwealth; and*
 - 3) other pertinent matters of interest to the regulated community, government officials, and the public.*
- If there are no disadvantages to the public or the Commonwealth, please indicate.*

The *Regulations Governing Pupil Transportation* are being revised to improve the safety and efficiency for children riding public school buses, and to clarify conflicting or unclear language, and to conform requirements to existing state law, federal requirements, and national standards. The following list summarizes some of the changes being made to the regulations.

1. The Code of Virginia, Section 46.2-812, requires that no person shall drive any motor vehicle on the highways of the commonwealth for more than thirteen hours in any period of twenty-four hours, or for a period which, when added to the time such person may have driven in any other state, would make an aggregate of more than thirteen hours in any twenty-four hour period. This would ensure school bus drivers are not driving more hours than are safe when transporting students. The proposed changes conform the regulations to this statute.
2. Changes to instruction for transportation directors and drivers are included. The requirement to have new transportation directors attend the “Train the Trainer” class will provide them with an overview of what is required of bus drivers. Topics for training and in-service are included to assist school divisions in providing appropriate training in various areas.
3. The use of the non-sequential lighting system is different from the lighting system on older buses, especially at railroad crossings. The use of the non-sequential lighting system will be covered in training sessions each year. The proper use of this lighting system will eliminate the confusion improper use may cause motorists.
4. Changes to the maintenance inspection schedule have been researched and discussed with bus manufacturers. Changing the schedule to every 45 school days or 5,000 miles will eliminate some of the inspections being performed by school divisions, thereby realizing some cost savings. However, this change should not reduce the safety of the school buses.
5. The reporting of accidents involving school buses is being revised so that school divisions only report accidents to the Department of Education that involve injuries or over \$1,500 in property damage. Not requiring the reporting of accidents with no injuries

and less than \$1,500 in property damage will save time for the local school division in reporting accidents to the state.

6. Language allowing school divisions to have 30 instructional days to eliminate standees on school buses is being revised to require school divisions to have a local policy on this issue, but with standing allowed only under emergency conditions and for short distances. This change is in line with practices in other states.

It is not anticipated that the proposed revisions to the regulations would not present any disadvantages to the school divisions or their clients.

Changes made since the proposed stage

Please describe all changes made to the text of the proposed regulation since the publication of the proposed stage. For the Registrar’s office, please put an asterisk next to any substantive changes.

Section number	Requirement at proposed stage	What has changed	Rationale for change
8VAC20-70-10.	<p>8VAC20-70-10. Definitions. The following words and terms when used in this chapter shall have the following meanings unless the context clearly indicates otherwise:</p> <p><u>“Classroom instruction” means training provided by a qualified driver instructor through lectures, demonstrations, audio-visual presentations, computer-based instruction, driving simulation devices, or similar means. Instruction occurring outside a classroom is included if it does not involve actual operation of a school bus and its components by the student.</u></p> <p>“Color-black” means federal standard No. 595, black.</p> <p>“Color-yellow” means national school bus yellow SBMTC <u>School Bus Manufacturers Technical Council (SBMTC)</u> color standard 008.</p> <p><u>“Multifunction School Activity</u></p>	<p>“Multifunction School Activity Bus” – removed the words “or school activity bus” and “identification” from the definition.</p>	<p>This change was made for consistency in language between the regulations and the bus specifications.</p>

	<p><u>Bus (MFSAB) or "school activity bus" means a school bus whose purposes do not include transporting students to and from home or school bus stops, as defined in 49 CFR 571.3. This subcategory of school bus meets all Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standards (FMVSS) for school buses and meets all regulations for school buses, except the traffic control devices, identification, color, use of cruise control, and seating requirements.</u></p> <p>"Nonconforming bus" means any vehicle designed to carry more than 10 passengers that is used to transport children to or from school or school-related activities that does not meet the federal standards, 49 CFR Part 571, specific to school buses or <u>multifunction school activity buses</u>. These vehicles are not approved for transporting students to and from school or school-related activities.</p> <p>"School bus" means any motor vehicle described in this chapter as "Type A1 and A2," "Type B1 and B2," "Type C," or "Type D," <u>which is designed and used for the transportation of pupils, which is other than a station wagon, automobile, truck, or commercial bus that is: (i) designed and used primarily for the transportation of pupils to and from public, private or religious schools, or for the transportation of pupils who are physically handicapped to and from a sheltered workshop; (ii) painted yellow with the words "School Bus" in black letters of a specified size on the front and rear, and which is (iii) equipped with the required warning devices as stated prescribed in §46.2-100 §46.2-1090 of the Code of Virginia. A yellow school bus may have a white roof provided such vehicle is painted in accordance with regulations and</u></p>		
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	<p><u>specifications of the Department of Education.</u></p> <p>Note: This definition includes school buses owned and operated by school boards, private contractors, local governments, and transit systems that are used for the transportation of public school pupils.</p> <p>“Specially equipped bus” means a school bus designed, equipped, or modified to accommodate students with special needs.</p> <p>"Type A school bus" means a van conversion or bus constructed utilizing a cutaway front-section vehicle with a left side driver's door. The entrance door is behind the front wheels. This definition includes two classifications. Type A1, with a Gross Vehicle Weight Rating (GVWR) less than or equal to 10,000 <u>of 14,500</u> pounds or less; and Type A2, with a GVWR greater than 10,000 <u>14,500</u> pounds, but less than or equal to 21,500 pounds.</p> <p>"Type B school bus" means a bus with a body constructed utilizing a stripped chassis. The entrance door is behind the front wheels. This definition includes two classifications: Type B1, with a GVWR less than or equal to of <u>10,000</u> pounds or less; and Type B2, with a GVWR greater than 10,000 pounds.</p> <p>"Type C (<u>Conventional</u>) school bus" means a bus with a body constructed utilizing a installed upon a flat-back cowl chassis with a hood and front fender assembly <u>fenders</u>. The entrance door is behind the front wheels. <u>This definition shall include two classifications: Type C1, with a GVWR range of 17,500 pounds with a design seating capacity range from 16 to 30 persons; and Type C2 with a GVWR of more</u></p>		
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	<p><u>than 21,500 pounds with a design seating capacity for more than 30 persons. The engine is in front of the windshield and the entrance door is behind the front wheels. Both Type C1 and Type C2 must be equipped with dual rear tires.</u></p> <p><u>"Type D school bus" means a bus with a body constructed utilizing a stripped chassis. The entrance door is ahead of the front wheels. This bus is also known as a rear engine or front engine transit style school bus.</u></p> <p><u>"Vehicle" means any vehicle owned or operated by, or owned or operated by any person under contract by, a county, city, town or school board in which any school pupils or personnel are transported at public expense from any public school.</u></p>		
<p>8VAC20-70-31.</p>	<p><u>8VAC20-70-31. Driving more than 13 hours in a 24 hour period prohibited.</u></p> <p><u>Pursuant to § 46.2-812 of the Code of Virginia, no person shall operate any school bus, school activity bus or school activity vehicle for more than 13 hours in any period of 24 hours or for a period that when added to the time such person may have driven any vehicle in any other state, would make an aggregate of more than 13 hours in any 24-hour period. Drivers of other commercial vehicles shall report all hours driven prior to operating a school bus, school activity bus, or school activity vehicle. No owner of any vehicle shall cause or permit a vehicle to be driven in violation of this section.</u></p>	<p>Language changed as follows:</p> <p>8VAC20-70-31. Driving Time. Driving time for operators of any school bus, school activity bus, or school activity vehicle shall be pursuant to §46.2-812, Code of Virginia.</p>	<p>The change was made to refer back to the Code of Virginia instead of including all the language of the section.</p>
<p>8VAC20-70-40.</p>	<p>8VAC20-70-40. Seating. The number of pupils who may ride a school bus shall be determined by the total number who can be seated on the seat cushion facing forward, safely seated within the seating</p>	<p>Added "in policy" to the last sentence. Sentence reads "Pupils may not be permitted to stand, except under unforeseen temporary emergency conditions and for short</p>	<p>School divisions will be required to have a written policy on standees on the school buses.</p>

	<p>compartment, and shall not exceed the manufacturer's capacity. During the first 30 instructional days of the school year standees may be permitted for short distances in the aisle back of the driver's seat. Pupils may not be permitted to stand after the first 30 instructional days, except under unforeseen <u>temporary</u> emergency conditions <u>and for short distances</u> as identified by the local school board.</p>	<p>distances as identified in policy by the local school board.</p>	
<p>8VAC20-70-100.</p>	<p>8VAC20-70-100. Passenger restraint belts. Pupils riding in school buses required by federal law to be equipped with passenger restraint belts shall wear them as required by state or federal law while the bus is in motion. See Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standards No. 209 and 210.</p>	<p>No changes made to proposed language.</p>	
<p>8VAC20-70-110.</p>	<p>8VAC20-70-110. Pupil rider <u>transportation safety instruction.</u> Pupil rider safety <u>transportation instruction</u> shall be included in the school curriculum, including demonstration and practices of safety procedures. 1. At the Pre-K-1 grade levels, initial safety training shall occur during the first week of school with additional training on a periodic basis during the year. <u>Students in grades 9 through 12 shall receive additional training on the rules for motorists approaching a stopped school bus and on safe following distances when operating a personal vehicle.</u> 2. Emergency exit drills shall be practiced by all pupil riders at least twice a year, the first occurring during the first 30 instructional days and the second in the second semester <u>and shall include the school bus driver.</u> Summer session evacuation drills should be performed as needed. 3. A copy of bus rider safety</p>	<p>The language “Students in grades 9 through 12 shall receive additional training on the rules for motorists approaching a stopped school bus and on safe following distances when operating a personal vehicle” was deleted.</p>	<p>This training was deleted from the Regulations Governing Pupil Transportation and made a part of the Driver Education Training provided to students by local school divisions.</p>

	<p>rules shall be sent to parents at the beginning of the school year. The information shall include a request that parents or their designee accompany their young children to and from the bus stop.</p>		
<p>8VAC20-70-130.</p>	<p>8VAC20-70-130. Maintenance inspection. All school buses and, school activity vehicles, <u>and school vehicles</u> used to transport public school pupils to and from school and school activity events shall be inspected and maintained <u>undergo a Level 2 maintenance inspection as prescribed in the Preventive Maintenance Manual for Virginia School Buses</u> by competent mechanics immediately before being used in the fall for each new school year and a Level 1 inspection at least once every 30 operating days or every 2,500 miles traveled <u>45 calendar days after the start of the new school year.</u> The inspections and maintenance shall be conducted in accordance with provisions of the "Preventive Maintenance Manual for Virginia School Buses, (November 2008) March 2003" and recorded on the prescribed inspection forms or in a format approved by the Department of Education. If the inspection and maintenance are not made in a shop operated by the school board or the local governing body, the school board shall designate one or more inspection centers to make the inspections and require a copy of the results of the inspections to be furnished to the division superintendent. <u>School division compliance with the foregoing maintenance inspection requirement shall be subject to verification by the Department of Education.</u> <u>Subject to funds being available, the Department of Education shall conduct random operational assessments during the school</u></p>	<p>The wording was changed by deleting "school vehicles" and adding "buses."</p> <p>The language on the Level 1 and Level 2 maintenance inspections has been deleted.</p> <p>"Calendar days" have been changed to "school days" as determined by the school division's approved yearly calendar.</p> <p>The number of days for an inspection has been changed from 30 operational days to 45 school days and the mileage of 5,000 miles was added.</p> <p>Language was also added that no bus will go without an inspection for more than 90 days.</p> <p>Additional language has been added to the last section describing the operational assessments that will be conducted by the Department of Education.</p>	<p>Based on researching maintenance inspection specifications from various manufacturers of school buses and practices in other states, the timeframe for maintenance inspections could be extended without reducing the safety of buses. This change would also result in cost savings for school divisions.</p> <p>The language on the operational assessments was added for clarity.</p>

	<p><u>year of school divisions' pupil transportation operations to ensure statutes, regulations, and specifications are being met. The Department of Education shall establish procedures for conducting the random operational assessments.</u> Maintenance and service personnel shall be encouraged to attend approved workshops or training institutes and shall receive all necessary service and maintenance publications for equipment serviced.</p>		
<p>8VAC20-70-140.</p>	<p>8VAC20-70-140. Crash/incident <u>Crash reporting.</u> A report, on forms or in a format furnished by the Department of Education, of any crashes or incidents involving school buses, pupils, and personnel who ride school or activity buses (including injury or death while crossing the road, waiting at bus stops, etc.) shall be sent to the Pupil Transportation Service, Department of Education by the division superintendent or designee at least once a month. The report shall give the apparent cause of the crash or incident and the extent of injuries to pupils or others. The division superintendent or designee shall notify the Pupil Transportation Service of any school bus crash or incident involving serious injuries, requiring professional medical treatment, or death within the next working day from the date of the crash or incident. A <u>vehicle</u> crash occurs when property damage is \$1,000 or more or when persons are injured. An incident occurs when property damage is \$999 or less and there are no injured individuals. <u>The Department of Education shall publish on its website an annual report of the number of crashes involving school buses, pupils, and personnel who ride school or activity buses</u></p>	<p>The dollar amount for reporting was changed to \$1,500.</p>	<p>This change was made to agree with the reporting requirements of the Virginia State Police.</p>

	<u>(including incidents of injury or death while crossing the road, waiting at bus stops, etc.) in each division.</u>		
8VAC20-70-150.	<p>8VAC20-70-150. Route schedule.</p> <p>All school buses in operation shall be scheduled to maximize safety and efficiency. The schedule shall show the time the bus starts in the morning, the time it leaves each point at which pupils are picked up, and the time of arrival at school, <u>and the time of drop off at home in the afternoon.</u> One copy of such schedule shall be kept in the bus <u>and secured when the bus is unattended.</u> and one copy shall be kept in the office of the division superintendent or designee.</p>	<p>Language “and secured when the bus is unattended” has been deleted.</p> <p>Language “and shall meet student records and information security requirements as stated in federal, state and local policy” was added at the end.</p>	<p>The security of information on students riding buses will be covered by federal, state and local policies.</p>
8VAC20-70-160.	<p>8VAC20-70-160. Review of routes.</p> <p>School bus routes, school sites, and safety of pupils at designated school bus stops shall be reviewed at least one <u>twice</u> each year, <u>once each semester.</u> Bus routes shall be reviewed for safety hazards; <u>and</u> fuel conservation; and to assure maximum <u>the most efficient</u> use of buses. Local school administrators shall evaluate the safety of pupils at bus stops periodically and shall at the request of the local school board report the results annually to the school board. Hazardous or unusual situations, to include railway crossings, shall be marked on the route sheet and made available to drivers and substitutes.</p> <p>A written vehicular and pedestrian traffic control plan for each existing school site shall be reviewed annually for safety hazards. All new school site plans shall include provisions that promote vehicular and pedestrian safety.</p>	<p>“Twice” has been deleted and “once a year” reinstated, and “as changes occur” was added and “once each semester” was deleted.</p>	<p>The school division will make the determination on when to review the routes, but the review must be done at least once a year.</p>

<p>8VAC20-70-170.</p>	<p>8VAC20-70-170. Railway crossings. School buses shall stop, as required by law, at railway grade crossings. The School buses <u>equipped with a nonsequential lighting system must have these lighting systems deactivated when approaching a railroad grade crossing and the 4-way hazard lights shall be activated when approaching the railway grade crossing and shall be deactivated before crossing the track.</u> The bus driver shall turn off all noisy equipment, open the entrance door of the bus and determine when it is safe for the vehicle to cross the railroad tracks. The entrance door shall be closed when the bus is in motion. No stop need be made at any grade crossing where traffic is directed by a police <u>law-enforcement</u> officer or a green traffic-control signal as stated in §46.2-886 of the Code of Virginia.</p>	<p>“When approaching the railway grade crossing” has been reinstated.</p>	<p>This change was made for clarity.</p>
<p>8VAC20-70-180.</p>	<p>8VAC20-70-180. Driver reports. Ridership and miles report. School boards shall require that a report on the number of pupils transported and miles traveled be made by all school bus drivers to principals or other designated school officials. <u>submitted to designated school officials.</u></p>	<p>No changes to the proposed language.</p>	
<p>8VAC20-70-200.</p>	<p>8VAC20-70-200. Identification and lights covering. The lettered identification and traffic warning lights on the front and rear of school buses shall be covered with opaque detachable material when they <u>school buses</u> are used for purposes other than to transport pupils on regular routes to and from school, or on special trips to participate in contests of various kinds, and <u>or</u> for supplementary education purposes as required by §22.1-183 of the Code of Virginia. This does not apply when the bus is</p>	<p>No changes to the proposed language.</p>	

	being used to transport elderly or mentally or physically handicapped persons.		
8VAC20-70-220.	<p>8VAC20-70-220. Passage restriction. No object shall be placed on any bus carrying passengers that will restrict the access to any exit, <u>restrict the freedom of motion of the driver for proper operation of the vehicle, or where displacement of such objects may result in personal injury to passengers.</u></p>	The wording “or where displacement of such objects may result in personal injury to passengers” was deleted. A new sentence was added: “Drivers shall be observant of any objects that may cause injury.”	The change was made for clarity.
8VAC20-70-230.	<p>8VAC20-70-230. Required materials. All vehicles used <u>primarily</u> to transport students to and from school or school-related activities shall carry reflective triangles, first aid kit, body fluid clean-up kit and fire extinguisher.</p>	No changes to the proposed language.	
8VAC20-70-271.	<p>8VAC20-70-271. Records retention. <u>School division documents related to pupil transportation shall be retained in accordance with local policy and guidelines from the Virginia State Library.</u></p>	No changes to the proposed language.	
8VAC20-70-280.	<p>8VAC20-70-280. Requirements for school bus drivers both for employment and continued employment. Sections Section 22.1-178, 46.2-339, and 46.2-340 of the Code of Virginia require <u>requires</u> drivers of school and activity buses to: 1. Have a physical examination of a scope prescribed by the Board of Education with the advice of the Medical Society of Virginia and furnished on a form prescribed by the Board of Education showing the results of such examination. a. No person shall drive a school bus unless that person is physically qualified to do so and has submitted a School Bus Driver's Application For Physician's Certificate signed by</p>	No changes to the proposed language.	

	<p>the applicant and the doctor or a licensed nurse practitioner for the applicable employment period.</p> <p>b. The physical form describes the basic physical qualifications for school bus drivers; however, the examining physician or licensed nurse practitioner shall make the final determination of the individual's physical capacity to operate a school bus based upon their assessment of the individual's overall physical condition.</p> <p>2. Furnish a statement or copy of records from the Department of Motor Vehicles showing that the person, within the preceding five years, has not been convicted of a charge of driving under the influence of intoxicating liquors or drugs, convicted of a charge of refusing to take a blood or breath test, convicted of a felony, or assigned to any alcohol safety action program or driver alcohol rehabilitation program pursuant to §18.2-271.1 of the Code of Virginia or, within the preceding 12 months, has not been convicted of two or more moving traffic violations or has not been required to attend a driver improvement clinic by the Commissioner of the Department of Motor Vehicles pursuant to §46.2-497 §46.2-498 of the Code of Virginia.</p> <p>3. Furnish a statement signed by two reputable persons who reside in the school division or in the applicant's community that the person is of good moral character.</p> <p>4. Exhibit a license showing the person has successfully undertaken the examination prescribed by §46.2-339 of the Code of Virginia.</p> <p>5. Be at least 18 years old.</p> <p>6. Submit to testing for alcohol and controlled substances that is in compliance with the Omnibus Transportation Employee Testing Act of 1991 (Public Law 102-143, Title V) as amended and <u>that</u></p>		
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	is in compliance with 49 CFR Parts 40 and 382.		
8VAC20-70-300.	8VAC20-70-300. Required documents. The documents required pursuant to <u>subdivisions 1 and 2 of 8VAC20-70-280</u> shall be furnished annually prior to the anniversary date of the employment to operate a school bus.	No changes to the proposed language.	
8VAC20-70-310.	8VAC20-70-310. Filing- (Repealed.) The documents required pursuant to this section shall be filed with, and made a part of, the records of the school board employing such person as a school bus operator.	No changes to the proposed language.	
8VAC20-70-350.	8VAC20-70-350. Training. No person shall operate a school or activity bus transporting pupils unless the person has: 1. Received classroom, demonstration, and behind-the-wheel instruction in accordance with a program developed by the Department of Education pursuant to §22.1-181 of the Code of Virginia. 2. Completed a minimum of 24 classroom hours and 24 hours of behind-the-wheel training. A minimum of 10 of the 24 hours of behind-the-wheel time shall involve the operation of a bus with pupils on board while under the direct <u>on-board</u> supervision of a designated bus driver trainer. Drivers of Type D buses must complete eight additional hours of training behind the wheel. All drivers shall receive training in the operation of a <u>Type D bus and transportation of students with special needs. buses representative of the type used in the school division in which they will be employed and in the transportation of students with special needs. Classroom instruction means training provided by a qualified driver instructor through lectures.</u>	Deleted the phrase “is included” and changed to “qualifies as classroom instruction” in Item 2 in the sentence beginning “Instruction occurring outside a classroom...” Changed “student” to “trainee” in the last sentences of Item 2.	These changes are made for clarity.

	<p><u>demonstrations, audio-visual presentations, computer-based instruction, driving simulation devices, or similar means.</u> <u>Instruction occurring outside a classroom is included if it does not involve actual operation of a school bus and its components by the student. Behind-the-wheel training does not include time spent riding in a school bus or observing operation of a school bus when the student is not in control of the vehicle.</u> The superintendent or his designee shall maintain a record showing that the applicant has completed the training and has been approved to operate a school or activity bus. <u>3. New transportation directors/supervisors employed by school divisions shall complete the “Train the Trainer” class conducted by the Department of Education within a year after being employed in this position.</u></p>		
<p>8VAC20-70-359.</p>	<p>8VAC20-70-359. Requirements for school bus driver instructors. <u>Instructors must meet the requirements of a school bus driver and have at least two years experience operating a Class B type vehicle.</u></p>	<p>8VAC20-70-359 is being deleted.</p>	<p>This requirement is covered in 8VAC20-70-411.</p>
<p>8VAC20-70-360.</p>	<p>8VAC20-70-360. In-service training. In-service training (at least two hours before the opening before the opening of schools <u>the school year and at least two hours during the second half of the school year</u>) year <u>year</u> devoted to improving the skills, attitudes, and knowledge, including orientation to maximize benefits of using safety programs and safety components shall be provided to all school or activity bus drivers. <u>In-service training shall include, but is not limited to, the following topics: basic motor vehicle laws, related administrative codes, pre-trip inspection procedures,</u></p>	<p>The number of hours “(at least two hours before the opening of the school year and at least two hours during the second half of the school year)” is being reinstated.</p> <p>Changed “In-service training shall...” to In-service training should...”</p> <p>At the end of the last sentence added “in the school division.”</p>	<p>This change was requested by school divisions to clarify what is required.</p> <p>This change was made for clarity.</p> <p>This change was made for clarity.</p>

	<p><u>student discipline and conduct, drug and alcohol testing procedures and policies, fuel conservation, safety, emergency procedures, student information and confidentiality, and local policies and procedures as required by the division's transportation department. A copy of the agenda for each in-service training event shall be on file.</u></p>		
8VAC20-70-370.	<p>8VAC20-70-370. Supervision. The drivers of school and activity buses shall be under the general direction and control of the <u>division</u> superintendent or designee, and shall also be accountable to the principal of the school to which <u>pupil</u> transportation is provided.</p>	No changes to the proposed language.	
8VAC20-70-380.	<p>8VAC20-70-380. Pre-trip safety inspection. The <u>Prior to the initial transporting of children each day,</u> the drivers of school and activity buses shall perform a daily pre-trip safety inspection of the vehicle. prior to transporting children. The items checked and recorded shall be at least equal to the pre-trip inspection procedure as prescribed in the Preventive Maintenance Manual for Virginia School Buses (November 2008) <u>issued</u> by the Department of Education.</p>	No changes to the proposed language.	
8VAC20-70-411.	<p>8VAC20-70-411. Driver trainers. <u>Driver trainers must meet the requirements of 8VAC20-70-280 and 8VAC20-70-350 and have at least two years experience operating a Class B vehicle.</u></p>	<p>Wording has changed as follows: "Behind-the-wheel driver trainers must meet the requirements of 8VAC20-70-280 and 8VAC20-70-350 and must have maintained a Class B license for two years prior to functioning as a behind-the-wheel driver trainer."</p>	This change was made for clarity.
8VAC20-70-420	<p>8VAC20-70-420. Instructor course certificate.</p>	No changes to proposed	

	Local school bus driver training instructors shall hold a certificate for completion of an instructor course conducted or approved by the Department of Education and shall attend a recertification course every five years. <u>Certification expires at the end of the calendar year five.</u>	language.	
8VAC20-70-430.	8VAC20-70-430. Driver data. The names and driver license numbers of persons operating school and activity buses <u>and other vehicles</u> used to transport pupils shall be submitted to the Department of Motor Vehicles annually as required by §46.2-340 of the Code of Virginia.	No changes to the proposed language.	
8VAC20-70-435.	8VAC20-70-435. Filing. <u>The documents required pursuant to 8VAC20-70-280, 8VAC20-70-350, 8VAC20-70-360, 8VAC20-70-400, and 8VAC20-70-420 shall be filed with, and made a part of, the records of the school board employing such person as a school bus operator.</u>	No changes to the proposed language.	
8VAC20-70-450.	8VAC20-70-450. Minimum standards specifications. Minimum standards <u>specifications</u> are applicable to all school buses and school activity vehicles <u>buses</u> , new or used, procured by purchase, lease or operational contract from another person or entity.	No changes to the proposed language.	
8VAC20-70-460.	8VAC20-70-460. Specifications. It is the intent of the Board of Education to accommodate new equipment and technology that will better facilitate the safe and efficient transportation of students. When a new technology, piece of equipment, or component is desired to be applied to the <u>a</u> school bus, it must have the approval of the Virginia Department of Education and must meet the following criteria: 1. The technology, equipment, or component shall not compromise the effectiveness or integrity of any major safety system. 2. The technology, equipment, or	Delete “Virginia” before Department of Education.	Change made to be consistent with other regulations.

	<p>component shall not diminish the safety of the interior of the bus.</p> <p>3. The technology, equipment, or component shall not create additional risk to students who are boarding or exiting the bus or are in or near the school bus loading zone.</p> <p>4. The technology, equipment, or component shall not require undue additional activity or responsibility for the driver.</p> <p>5. The technology, equipment, or component shall generally increase efficiency or safety, or both, of the bus, generally provide for a safer or more pleasant experience for the occupants and pedestrians in the vicinity of the bus, or shall generally assist the driver and make his many tasks easier to perform.</p> <p>Buses <u>School buses</u> and school activity vehicles <u>buses</u> must conform to the specifications relative to construction and design effective on the date of procurement. Any variation from the specifications, in the form of additional equipment or changes in style of equipment, without prior approval of the Department of Education, is prohibited. The Department of Education shall issue specifications and standards for public school buses to reflect desired technology or safety improvements for the then current model year.</p>		
<p>8VAC20-70-480.</p>	<p>8VAC20-70-480. Bus identification. All publicly owned, part publicly owned, or contract school buses, transporting pupils to and from public school, shall be painted a uniform color, national school bus yellow, and shall be identified and equipped as outlined in the standards and specifications.</p>	<p>No changes to the proposed language.</p>	
<p>8VAC20-70-490.</p>	<p>8VAC20-70-490. Purchase. The responsibility for purchasing</p>	<p>No changes to the proposed</p>	

	<p>school buses and school activity vehicles <u>buses</u> which meet state and federal requirements rests with division superintendents and local school boards.</p> <p>A schedule for the replacement of buses on a continuing basis shall be developed and implemented by each school division.</p>	language.	
8VAC20-70-510.	<p>8VAC20-70-510. Vehicles powered by alternative fuels.</p> <p>A. The Board of Education will continue to promote the use of alternative fuels for school buses. Any vehicle powered by alternative fuels will be subject to inspection and approval by the Virginia Department of Education.</p> <p>B. Local school divisions, in consultation with the Department of Education, may purchase and use school buses using alternative fuels as covered in §22.1-177 of the Code of Virginia.</p> <p>C. Installation of alternative fuel tanks and fuel systems shall comply with all applicable Federal Motor Vehicles Safety Standards (FMVSS) 301, 49 CFR Part 571, and all applicable fire codes.</p> <p>D. A sign with black letters on clear or school bus yellow background, indicating the type of alternative fuel being used, may be placed on the side of the bus near the entrance door. No sign shall be more than 4 3/4 inches long or more than 3 1/4 inches high.</p>	No changes to the proposed language.	
8VAC20-70-525.	<p>8VAC20-70-525. Regulations and standards.</p> <p>Activity vehicles <u>A. School activity buses</u> owned or operated under contract by or for the school board, which are used solely to transport pupils to and from school activity events, shall comply with all applicable regulations and standards prescribed for school buses except as noted in this part.</p>	No changes to the proposed language.	

	<p>B. Exceptions, general regulations.</p> <p>a.<u>An activity vehicle</u> 1. Pursuant to §46.2-871 of the Code of Virginia, an activity bus transporting school pupils shall be operated at a safe, legal speed not in excess of 55 miles per hour.</p> <p>b.2. No standees shall be permitted.</p> <p>c. The eight inch school bus lettered identification and traffic warning devices shall be removed by the local school division as required by §§46.2-100 and 46.2-1090 of the Code of Virginia. The name of the school division or individual school shall be placed on both sides of the vehicle.</p> <p>d.3. Stops for the purpose of loading or discharging pupils on the travel portion of the highway shall not be permitted.</p> <p>2. Exceptions, minimum standards for school buses in Virginia.</p> <p>a. School activity vehicles shall not be painted national school bus yellow.</p> <p>b. Other types of seats and increased spacing may be used provided all provisions of FMVSS 222, 49 CFR §571.222, are met.</p>		
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Public comment

Please summarize all comments received during the public comment period following the publication of the proposed stage, and provide the agency response. If no comment was received, please so indicate.

Commenter	Comment	Agency response
Fairfax County Transportation	<p>8VAC20-70-10. Definitions. Does the added definition of “vehicle” create a new question on acceptable vehicle capacity.</p>	The definitions have been updated for the wording included in the “2005 National School Transportation Specifications and Procedures.”

Frederick County Transportation	Type A bus – Entrance door location removed. Would Type A or B school buses have dual tires?	
Roanoke County Transportation	Remove the word “identification” from the definition of Multifunction School Activity Bus.	
Fairfax County Transportation	8VAC20-70-31. Driving hours. Likes the idea of restricting hours.	Wording has been included in the Regulations to make this a requirement of school bus operators per Section 46.2-812, Code of Virginia.
Spotsylvania County Transportation	Would like to change language to hours on duty, not just driving time.	
Prince William County Transportation	What does term “operate” mean?	
Region 2 Directors	Not having drivers available for late evening/night trips could present a challenge. Need to have own description on what is working/driving time.	
Virginia Beach Transportation	Need to define driving time.	
Region 3 Directors	Request information be more detailed in section.	
Montgomery County Transportation	Need to address on-duty hours and not just driving hours.	
Fairfax County Transportation	8VAC20-70-40. Seating. Impractical to forecast ridership and plan routes to this degree without significant waste of resources.	The revised wording will allow local school divisions to set their own policy on the number of days standees are allowed. The language does require that standees only be allowed in times of temporary emergency conditions and short distances.
Region 2 Directors, Region 3 Directors & Virginia Beach Transportation	Modify requirement to allow students to stand during first 15 or 21 school days to allow districts time to work out bus runs.	
Frederick County Transportation	School divisions need a time to adjust. Temporary and short distances are too vague a statement. State should take leadership role in consistency through the state.	
Prince William Transportation	8VAC20-70-80. Loading or discharging students. Recommend change be made to state in the right-hand through lane.	This is currently covered in the Code of Virginia, Sections 46.2-893 and 46.2-918.
Prince William Education Association	“Wait for hand signal” - Could be confusing to motorists.	
Fairfax County	8VAC20-70-110. Pupil rider transportation safety instruction. Driver take part in drills – not always	Bus drivers should be involved in evacuation

<p>Transportation</p> <p>Region 2 Directors & Virginia Beach Transportation</p> <p>Prince William County Transportation</p> <p>Region 3 Directors</p>	<p>appropriate, practical, or safe to have both students and driver practice at same time.</p> <p>Grades 9 – 12 training – should not be in pupil transportation; should be a part of the Driver Education Program.</p> <p>Grades 9 -12 training – not easily accomplished for all students</p> <p>Who would be responsible to verify training for grades 9 – 12?</p>	<p>drills as they will be the individuals to provide guidance to students in a real evacuation.</p> <p>The training for students in grades 9-12 has been added to the Driver Education curriculum.</p>
<p>Fairfax County Transportation</p> <p>Region 2 Directors</p> <p>Frederick County Transportation</p> <p>Radford City Transportation</p> <p>Newport News City Transportation</p>	<p>8VAC20-70-130. Maintenance Inspection. Maintenance should be a year-round activity. Mandating Level 2 inspections prior to each new year can create a disproportionate service requirement. Changing from operating days to calendar days will create additional disproportionate service requirements. Change requirement to 45 operating days or 3,500 miles traveled. Another recommended change would be “45 school days” and the mileage interval be increased to 5,000 miles. Support extending the interval between required maintenance inspections.</p> <p>A 45 calendar day inspection interval would place undue inspection requirements on divisions. A 45 day schedule would require buses to be inspected during extended periods of time that they are not utilized. Keep the 30 operational days.</p> <p>Add the word “primarily” after school vehicles. Makes it consistent with language under 8VAC20-70-230. Recommend “90 regular calendar days be changed to “90 regular operating days.”</p> <p>The 2,500 mile option allowed school system to keep safe buses on the road.</p> <p>The 45 calendar day maintenance would create a problem, especially around Christmas break. Would like to see schedule remain 30 operating days. The requirement to complete a Level 2 inspection on all buses before the start of school will be extremely difficult to</p>	<p>After much research and review of comments, the requirement for maintenance inspections will be every 45 school days as outlined in the school calendar or every 5,000 miles. This change should reduce the number of inspections being conducted each year representing a cost saving measure for local school divisions. This change will not reduce the safety of buses.</p>

<p>Region 2 Directors & Virginia Beach Transportation</p> <p>Frederick County Transportation & Hanover County Fleet</p> <p>Region 3 Directors</p> <p>Hanover County Transportation</p> <p>Loudoun County Fleet Management</p> <p>Montgomery County Transportation</p>	<p>achieve.</p> <p>Recommend keeping the current criteria of 30 operating days.</p> <p>Maintenance schedules should be according to mileage in lieu of days to take into consideration routes of varying lengths.</p> <p>Change current 30 operating day inspection interval to a 45 school day interval. This would reduce the number of inspections per vehicles during school year and result in significant savings to school systems.</p> <p>Changing to every 45 calendar days will cost all divisions more money.</p> <p>Going to a 45 calendar day schedule will increase the PM services per year, increase the cost, and require an increase in the number of technicians.</p> <p>Inspections need to be based on school operational days, not calendar days.</p>	
<p>Prince William County Transportation</p> <p>Region 2 Directors, Virginia Beach Transportation, and Montgomery County Transportation</p> <p>Region 3 Directors</p>	<p>8VAC20-70-140. Crash/incident reporting. What is purpose of publishing crash data on web? Recommend data be maintained within DOE.</p> <p>Change property damage amount to \$1,500</p> <p>Recommend adding language for completion of report when no incidents have occurred.</p>	<p>The property damage amount is being increased to \$1,500 as required by Virginia State Police accident reporting.</p> <p>The information on crashes will be posted on the DOE web site annually for citizens interested in this data.</p>
<p>Prince William County Transportation</p> <p>Region 2 Directors</p> <p>Virginia Beach City Transportation</p>	<p>8VAC20-70-150. Route Schedule. Requirement to keep copy of route schedule in bus serves no practical purpose and creates a security problem.</p> <p>Not all school buses have lockable boxes.</p> <p>See no need for this information to be kept on school bus with the availability of communication devices.</p>	
	<p>8VAC20-70-160. Review of Routes.</p>	

<p>Fairfax County Transportation & Region 2 Directors</p> <p>Prince William County Transportation</p> <p>Virginia Beach Transportation & Region 2 Directors</p> <p>Montgomery County Transportation</p>	<p>Doubles the workload on supervisory staff. Places enormous burden on divisions as it takes considerable time to physically observe each bus stop.</p> <p>Recommends the removal of "school site" and "twice" from first paragraph.</p> <p>Maintain current standard for reviewing routes.</p> <p>Needs to be reworded and left as is, but change to reviewing safety on a continuing basis.</p>	<p>The change to this section in the Regulations does not require physical reviews of each bus stop. The language states that routes should be reviewed at least once a year and as changes occur.</p> <p>This requirement can be accomplished by reviewing computer routing.</p>
<p>Northrop Grumman Shipbuilding</p>	<p>8VAC20-70-170. Railway crossings. Add sentence "No stop need be made at any inactive or industrial track posted with an 'exempt' sign approved by the cognizant engineering authority."</p>	<p>The Code of Virginia, Section 46.2-886, states that the driver of any school bus shall stop the school bus at the railroad, look and listen for trains.</p>
<p>Prince William County Transportation</p>	<p>8VAC20-70-200. Identification and lights covering. Covering of lettered identification and traffic warning lights is not practicable when buses are used for emergency fire and flood evacuations of citizens.</p>	<p>This is in accordance with Section 22.1-183, Code of Virginia.</p>
<p>Fairfax County Transportation</p> <p>Region 2 Directors</p> <p>Spotsylvania County Transportation</p>	<p>8VAC20-70-220. Passage restriction. Does this mean that backpacks, coolers, and band instruments can no longer be transported on or under bus seats or on the lap of passengers?</p> <p>Most divisions allow these items to be transported if they can be held safely in the lap. The recommended change seems to take that flexibility away from local operation.</p> <p>A sentence should be added stating that objects must be secured so as not to become a missile in the event of a crash.</p>	<p>The change to this section states that drivers should be observant of items that may cause injury or block any exit. It is a local policy as to what instruments, objects, etc. a student may take on the bus.</p>
<p>Prince William County Transportation</p> <p>Prince William Education Association</p>	<p>8VAC20-70-280. Requirements for school bus drivers both for employment and continued employment. School divisions should be allowed to develop their own physical examination forms.</p> <p>School division has the right and responsibility to order the re-examination of application if the division has reason to question the original doctor's evaluation.</p>	<p>The Code of Virginia, Section 22.1-178, states what the requirements are for school bus drivers. A person must be at least 18 years old, and the requirements of the physical form are covered in Item 1.</p>

Region 2 Directors & Virginia Beach Transportation	Eighteen year olds will not have a five year history. Needs to be clarified.	
Dickenson County Transportation	Concern about requirement to get DMV driving records on a yearly basis.	
Spotsylvania County Transportation	8VAC20-70-330. Health certificate. Add nurse practitioner to the physical form.	“Nurse practitioner” has been added to the physical form based on the change in the Code of Virginia, Section 22.1-178.
Fairfax County Transportation	8VAC20-70-350. Training. Why does a driver who is not being hired to operate a specific type of bus be required to take training on all types of buses? Does the training requirement in 3. Apply to the chief transportation or contact person only?	The sentence in the current Regulations requiring eight hours of training on Type D buses is being deleted. However, language is being added stating that drivers should be trained on any type of bus in the fleet. The reason for this is that if a bus breaks down and cannot be used, the driver should be able to operate another bus in the fleet without any problems.
Prince William County Transportation	Requirement in 3 should be deleted. School boards hire directors and should determine what training the directors receive.	The “Train the Trainer” course is good background information for new transportation directors. It will give new directors a good understanding of what is required of school bus drivers.
Region 2 Directors	Is 3. specific to transportation heads or every supervisor within the transportation department?	
Montgomery County Transportation	No. 3 is an excellent idea.	
Prince William County Transportation	8VAC20-70-359. Requirements for School Bus Driver Instructors. Language is confusing and needs to be revised.	This section is being deleted.
Fairfax County Transportation	8VAC20-70-360. In-service Training. The specifics help and should be retained.	The language has been changed to say “should” and not “shall.”
Spotsylvania County Transportation	Recommend change in wording.	
Chesterfield County Transportation	The section is worded in such a way that requires the ten topics to be covered at every in-service training meeting.	
Region 2 Directors	8VAC20-70-380. Pre-trip safety inspection. Each division would have the ability to develop their own pre-trip form which may include additional checks above and beyond the DOE minimum requirement.	Pre-trip inspection will still be required of all drivers.
Virginia Beach City Transportation	Pre-trip inspection should be reasonable, enforceable, logical, and not physically challenging to employees. Wants the under-the-hood requirement deleted.	
	8VAC20-70-460. Specifications.	

Kingmor Supply, Inc.	The wording stating that buses must conform to the specifications relative to construction and design effective on the date of procurement should be worded to say that buses must conform to the specifications relative to construction and design effective on the date of manufacture.	Language will remain as is.
Fairfax County Transportation	8VAC20-70-470. Adjustments Add wording "Further, the Superintendent may allow exceptions to regulations for the purpose of study in the interest of safety and efficiency. Such exceptions would be for a specified period and limited in scope to allow for adequate study and analysis, but not to exceed the authority of the State Board of Education.	Language will remain as is.

All changes made in this regulatory action

Please list all changes that are being proposed and the consequences of the proposed changes. Describe new provisions and/or all changes to existing sections.

Current section number	Proposed new section number, if applicable	Current requirement	Proposed change and rationale
8VAC20-70-10.		<p>Definitions.</p> <p>The following words and terms when used in this chapter shall have the following meanings unless the context clearly indicates otherwise:</p> <p>"Color-black" means federal standard No. 595, black.</p> <p>"Color-yellow" means national school bus yellow SBMTC color standard 008.</p> <p>"Nonconforming bus" means any vehicle designed to carry more than 10 passengers that is used to transport children to or from school or school-related activities that does not meet the federal standards, 49 CFR Part 571, specific to school buses. These vehicles are not approved for transporting students to and from school or school-related activities.</p> <p>"School bus" means any motor vehicle</p>	<p>Definitions.</p> <p>The following words and terms when used in this chapter shall have the following meanings unless the context clearly indicates otherwise:</p> <p><u>"Classroom instruction" means training provided by a qualified driver instructor through lectures, demonstrations, audio-visual presentations, computer-based instruction, driving simulation devices, or similar means. Instruction occurring outside a classroom is included if it does not involve actual operation of a school bus and its components by the student.</u></p> <p>"Color-black" means federal standard No. 595, black.</p> <p>"Color-yellow" means national school bus yellow <u>SBMTC School Bus Manufacturers Technical Council</u></p>

		<p>described in this chapter as "Type A1 and A2," "Type B1 and B2," "Type C," or "Type D," which is designed and used for the transportation of pupils, which is painted yellow with the words "School Bus" in black letters of specified size on the front and rear, and which is equipped with the required warning devices as stated in § 46.2-100 of the Code of Virginia.</p> <p>Note: This definition includes school buses owned and operated by school boards, private contractors, local governments, and transit systems that are used for the transportation of public school pupils.</p> <p>"Specially equipped bus" means a school bus designed, equipped, or modified to accommodate students with special needs.</p> <p>"Type A school bus" means a van conversion or bus constructed utilizing a cutaway front-section vehicle with a left side driver's door. The entrance door is behind the front wheels. This definition includes two classifications. Type A1, with a Gross Vehicle Weight Rating (GVWR) less than or equal to 10,000 pounds; and Type A2, with a GVWR greater than 10,000 pounds.</p> <p>"Type B school bus" means a bus with a body constructed utilizing a stripped chassis. The entrance door is behind the front wheels. This definition includes two classifications: Type B1, with a GVWR less than or equal to 10,000 pounds; and Type B2, with a GVWR greater than 10,000 pounds.</p> <p>"Type C school bus" means a bus with a body constructed utilizing a chassis with a hood and front fender assembly. The entrance door is behind the front wheels.</p> <p>"Type D school bus" means a bus with a body constructed utilizing a stripped chassis. The entrance door is ahead of the front wheels.</p>	<p>(SBMTC) color standard 008.</p> <p><u>"Multifunction School Activity Bus (MFSAB)" or "school activity bus" means a school bus whose purposes do not include transporting students to and from home or school bus stops, as defined in 49 CFR 571.3. This subcategory of school bus meets all Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standards (FMVSS) for school buses and meets all regulations for school buses, except the traffic control devices, identification, color, use of cruise control and seating requirements.</u></p> <p>"Nonconforming bus" means any vehicles designed to carry more than 10 passengers that is used to transport children to or from school or school-related activities that does not meet the federal standards, 49 CFR part 571, specific to school buses <u>or multifunction school activity buses</u>. These vehicles are not approved for transporting students to and from school or school related activities.</p> <p><u>"School bus" means any motor vehicle described in this chapter as "Type A1 and A2," "Type B1 and B2," "Type C," or "Type D," which is designed and used for the transportation of pupils, which is other than a station wagon, automobile, truck, or commercial bus that is (i) designed and used primarily for the transportation of pupils to and from public, private or religious schools, or for the transportation of pupils who are physically handicapped to and from a sheltered workshop; (ii) painted yellow and bears the words "School bus" in black letters of a specified size on the front and rear, and which is (iii) equipped with the required warning devices as stated prescribed in § 46.2-100 §46.2-1090 of the Code of Virginia. A yellow school bus may have a white roof provided such vehicle is painted in accordance with regulations and specifications promulgated of the Department of Education.</u></p> <p>Note: This definition includes school buses owned and operated by school</p>
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		<p>boards, private contractors, local governments, and transit systems that are used for the transportation of public school pupils.</p> <p>“Specially equipped bus” means a school bus designed, equipped, or modified to accommodate students with special needs.</p> <p>“Type A school bus” means a van conversion or bus constructed utilizing a cutaway front-section vehicle with a left side driver’s door. The entrance door is behind the front wheels. This definition includes two classifications. Type A1, with a Gross Vehicle Weight Rating (GVWR) less than or equal to 10,000 of 14,500 pounds or less; and Type A2, with a GVWR greater than 10,00014,500 pounds <u>but less than or equal to 21,500 pounds.</u></p> <p>“Type B school bus” means a bus with a body constructed utilizing a stripped chassis. The entrance door is behind the front wheels. This definition includes two classifications: Type B1, with a GVWR less than or equal to of 10,000 pounds <u>or less;</u> and Type B2, with a GVWR greater than 10,000 pounds.</p> <p>“Type C (<u>Conventional</u>) school bus” means a bus with a body constructed utilizing a <u>installed upon a flat-back cowl</u> chassis with a hood and front fender assembly <u>fenders.</u> The entrance door is behind the front wheels. <u>This definition shall include two classifications: Type C1, with a GVWR range of 17,500 pounds with a design seating capacity range from 16 to 30 persons; and Type C2 with a GVWR of more than 21,500 pounds, with a design seating capacity for designed for carrying more than 30 persons. The engine is in front of the windshield and the entrance door is behind the front wheels. Both Type C1 and Type C2 must be equipped with dual rear tires.</u></p> <p>“Type D school bus” means a bus with a body constructed utilizing a stripped chassis. The entrance door is ahead of the front wheels. <u>This bus is also known</u></p>
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			<p><u>as a rear engine or front engine transit style school bus.</u></p> <p><u>“Vehicle” means any vehicle owned or operated by, or owned or operated by any person under contract with, a county, city, town or school board in which any school pupils or personnel are transported at public expense to or from any public school or public school activity.</u></p> <p>The definitions are being updated to correspond with the National Standards and for clarification.</p>
8VAC20-70-20.		<p>Transportation of children.</p> <p>The greatest care shall be exercised at all times in the transportation of school children.</p>	<p>No changes to this section.</p>
8VAC20-70-30.		<p>Safe Speeds.</p> <p>A school bus transporting school pupils shall be operated at a safe speed as stated in §46.2-871 of the Code of Virginia.</p>	<p>No changes to this section.</p>
	8VAC20-70-31		<p><u>Driving time more than thirteen hours in a twenty four hour period prohibited</u></p> <p><u>Pursuant to §46.2-812 of the Code of Virginia, no person shall operate any school bus, school activity bus or school activity vehicle for more than 13 hours in any period of 24 hours or for a period that when added to the time such person may have driven any vehicle in any other state would make an aggregate of more than 13 hours in any 24 hour period.</u></p> <p><u>Drivers of other commercial vehicles shall report all hours driven prior to operating a school bus, school activity bus, or school activity vehicle.</u></p> <p><u>No owner of any vehicle shall cause or permit a vehicle to be driven in violation of this section.</u></p> <p><u>Driving time for operators of any school bus, school activity bus, or school activity vehicle shall be pursuant to §46.2-812, Code of Virginia.</u></p> <p>Changes language to reference the Code of Virginia rather than cover the details in the regulation.</p>

<p>8VAC20-70-40</p>		<p>Seating.</p> <p>The number of pupils who may ride a school bus shall be determined by the total number who can be seated on the seat cushion facing forward, safely seated within the seating compartment, and shall not exceed the manufacturer's capacity. During the first 30 instructional days of the school year standees may be permitted for short distances in the aisle back of the driver's seat. Pupils may not be permitted to stand after the first 30 instructional days, except under unforeseen emergency conditions as identified by the local school board.</p>	<p>Seating.</p> <p>The number of pupils who may ride a school bus shall be determined by the total number who can be seated on the seat cushion facing forward, safely seated within the seating compartment and shall not exceed the manufacturer's capacity. During the first 30 instructional days of the school year standees may be permitted for short distances in the aisle back of the driver's seat. Pupils may not be permitted to stand after the first 30 instructional days except under unforeseen <u>temporary</u> emergency conditions and <u>for short distances</u> as identified <u>in policy</u> by the local school board.</p> <p>Local school board should have a policy identifying the conditions under which students are allowed to stand. This change in language conforms to common practice in other states.</p>
<p>8VAC20-70-50.</p>		<p>Written employment agreement.</p> <p>A written employment agreement shall be made by the school board with all regular school bus drivers before they begin their duties. Substitute drivers shall meet the requirements prescribed for regular bus drivers and shall be approved and paid by the local school board.</p>	<p>No changes to this section.</p>
<p>8VAC20-70-60.</p>		<p>Entrance door.</p> <p>The school bus driver shall open and close the entrance door and keep it securely closed while the bus is in motion. This responsibility shall not be delegated to any other person.</p>	<p>No changes to this section.</p>
<p>8VAC20-70-70.</p>		<p>Traffic warning devices.</p> <p>Every school bus operated at public expense for the purpose of transporting school children shall be equipped with traffic warning devices as states in §§46.2-1090 and 46.2-1090.1 of the Code of Virginia.</p>	<p>No changes to this section.</p>
<p>8VAC20-</p>		<p>8VAC20-70-80. Loading or</p>	

70-80.		<p>discharging pupils.</p> <p>When loading or discharging pupils on the highway, stops shall be made in the right-hand lane and shall be made only at designated points where the bus can be clearly seen for a safe distance from both directions. Pupils shall be picked up and discharged only at designated school bus stops approved by the local school division except in the case of an emergency. While stopped, the driver shall keep the school bus warning devices in operation to warn approaching traffic to stop and allow pupils to cross the highway safely. Pupils who must cross the road shall be required to cross in front of the bus. They shall be required to walk to a point 10 feet or more in front of the bus, stop before reaching a position in line with the left side of the bus, and wait for a hand signal from the bus driver before starting across the highway.</p> <p>On dual highways divided by a physical barrier, unpaved area, or five lane highway with turning lane, buses shall be routed so that pupils will be picked up and discharged on the side of the road on which they live. (See §§ 46.2-893 and 46.2-918 of the Code of Virginia.)</p>	<p>No changes in this section.</p>
8VAC20-70-90.		<p>Safety belts.</p> <p>Persons operating a school bus shall wear the appropriate safety belt system while bus is in motion.</p>	<p>No changes in this section.</p>
8VAC20-70-100.		<p>Passenger restraint belts.</p> <p>Pupils riding in school buses required by federal law to be equipped with passenger restraint belts shall wear them as required by state or federal law while the bus is in motion. See Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standards No. 209 and 210.</p>	<p>Passenger restraint belts.</p> <p>Pupils riding in school buses required by federal law to be equipped with passenger restraint belts shall wear them as required by state or federal law while the bus is in motion. See Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standards No. 209 and 210.</p> <p>Removes reference to Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standards.</p>
8VAC20-70-110.		<p>Pupil rider safety instruction.</p>	<p>Pupil rider <u>transportation</u> safety</p>

		<p>Pupil rider safety instruction shall be included in the school curriculum, including demonstration and practices of safety procedures.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. At the Pre-K-1 grade levels, initial safety training shall occur during the first week of school with additional training on a periodic basis during the year. 2. Emergency exit drills shall be practiced by all pupil riders at least twice a year, the first occurring during the first 30 instructional days and the second in the second semester. Summer session evacuation drills should be performed as needed. 3. A copy of bus rider safety rules shall be sent to parents at the beginning of the school year. The information shall include a request that parents or their designee accompany their young children to and from the bus stop. 	<p>instruction.</p> <p>Pupil rider safety <u>transportation</u> instruction shall be included in the school curriculum, including demonstration and practices of safety procedures.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. At the Pre-K-1 grade levels, initial safety training shall occur during the first week of school with additional training on a periodic basis during the year. Students in grades 9 through 12 shall receive additional training on the rules for motorists approaching a stopped school bus and on safe following distances when operating a personal vehicle. 2. Emergency exit drills shall be practiced by all pupil riders at least twice a year, the first occurring during the first 30 instructional days and the second in the second semester <u>and shall include the school bus driver</u>. Summer session evacuation drills should be performed as needed. 3. A copy of bus rider safety rules shall be sent to parents at the beginning of the school year. The information shall include a request that parents or their designee accompany their young children to and from the bus stop. <p>Training for grades 9 – 12 has been added to the Driver Trainer Curriculum taught in the high school.</p> <p>The driver should be included in the emergency exit drills because if a real emergency developed, the driver would be the one directing the students on how to evacuate the bus.</p>
<p>8VAC20-70-120.</p>		<p>Insurance.</p> <p>Every vehicle used in transporting school pupils and personnel at public expense shall be covered by insurance that will provide financial assistance to pupils and personnel in case of injuries or deaths resulting from an accident as stated in § 22.1-190 of the Code of Virginia.</p>	<p>No change to this section.</p>

<p>8VAC20-70-130.</p>		<p>Maintenance inspection.</p> <p>All school buses and school activity vehicles used to transport public school pupils to and from school and school activity events shall be inspected and maintained by competent mechanics immediately before being used in the fall and at least once every 30 operating days or every 2,500 miles traveled. The inspections and maintenance shall be conducted in accordance with provisions of the "Preventive Maintenance Manual for Virginia School Buses, March 2003" and recorded on the prescribed inspection forms or in a format approved by the Department of Education. If the inspection and maintenance are not made in a shop operated by the school board or the local governing body, the school board shall designate one or more inspection centers to make the inspections and require a copy of the results of the inspections to be furnished to the division superintendent.</p> <p>Maintenance and service personnel shall be encouraged to attend approved workshops or training institutes and shall receive all necessary service and maintenance publications for equipment serviced.</p>	<p>Maintenance inspection.</p> <p>All school buses and school activity vehicles and school vehicles used to transport public school pupils to and from school and school activity events shall be inspected and maintained <u>undergo a Level 2 maintenance inspection as prescribed in the Preventive Maintenance Manual for Virginia School Buses by competent mechanics immediately before being used in the fall for each new school year and a Level 1 inspection at least once every 30 operating days or every 2,500 miles traveled 45 calendar days after the start of the new school year.</u> The inspections and maintenance shall be conducted in accordance with provisions of the "Preventive Maintenance Manual for Virginia School Buses, March 2003"²² (November, 2008) and recorded on the prescribed inspection forms or in a format approved by the Department of Education. If the inspection and maintenance are not made in a shop operated by the school board or the local governing body, the school board shall designate one or more inspection centers to make the inspections and require a copy of the results of the inspections to be furnished to the division superintendent. <u>School division compliance with the foregoing maintenance inspection requirement shall be subject to verification by the Department of Education.</u></p> <p><u>Subject to funds being available, the Department of Education shall conduct random on an on-going basis operational assessments during the school year of school divisions' pupil transportation operations to ensure statutes, regulations, and specifications are being met. The Department of Education shall establish procedures for conducting the random operational assessments.</u></p> <p>Maintenance and service personnel shall be encouraged to attend approved workshops or training institutes and shall receive all necessary service and maintenance publications for equipment serviced.</p>
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<p>8VAC20-70-140.</p>		<p>Crash/incident reporting.</p> <p>A report, on forms or in a format furnished by the Department of Education, of any crashes or incidents involving school buses, pupils, and personnel who ride school or activity buses (including injury or death while crossing the road, waiting at bus stops, etc.) shall be sent to the Pupil Transportation Service, Department of Education by the division</p>	<p>Crash/incident reporting.</p> <p>A report, on forms or in a format furnished by the Department of Education, of any crashes or incidents involving school buses, pupils, and personnel who ride school or activity buses (including injury or death while crossing the road, waiting at bus stops, etc.) shall be sent to the Pupil Transportation Service, Department of Education by the division superintendent</p>

		<p>superintendent or designee at least once a month. The report shall give the apparent cause of the crash or incident and the extent of injuries to pupils or others. The division superintendent or designee shall notify the Pupil Transportation Service of any school bus crash or incident involving serious injuries, requiring professional medical treatment, or death within the next working day from the date of the crash or incident.</p> <p>A crash occurs when property damage is \$1,000 or more or when persons are injured. An incident occurs when property damage is \$999 or less and there are no injured individuals.</p>	<p>or designee at least once a month. The report shall give the apparent cause of the crash or incident and the extent of injuries to pupils or others. The division superintendent or designee shall notify the Pupil Transportation Service of any school bus crash or incident involving serious injuries, requiring professional medical treatment, or death within the next working day from the date of the crash or incident.</p> <p>A <u>vehicle</u> crash occurs when property damage is \$1,000 <u>\$1,500</u> or more or when persons are injured. An incident occurs when property damage is \$999 or less and there are no injured individuals.</p> <p><u>The Department of Education shall publish on its website an annual report of the number of crashes involving school buses, pupils, and personnel who ride school or activity buses (including incidents of injury or death while crossing the road, waiting at bus stops, etc.) in each division.</u></p> <p>The dollar amount has been changed to agree with standard reporting by police of property damage per Section 46.2-373, Code of Virginia.</p> <p>An annual report will be available on the website for anyone interested in this data.</p>
<p>8VAC20-70-150.</p>		<p>Route schedule.</p> <p>All school buses in operation shall be scheduled to maximize safety and efficiency. The schedule shall show the time the bus starts in the morning, the time it leaves each point at which pupils are picked up, and the time of arrival at school. One copy of such schedule shall be kept in the bus and one copy shall be kept in the office of the division superintendent or designee.</p>	<p>Route schedule.</p> <p>All school buses in operation shall be scheduled to maximize safety and efficiency. The schedule shall show the time the bus starts in the morning, the time it leaves each point at which pupils are picked up, and the time of arrival at school, <u>and the time of drop off in the afternoon.</u> One copy of such schedule shall be kept in the bus and secured when the bus is unattended and one copy shall be kept in the office of the division superintendent or designee, <u>and shall meet student records and information security requirements as stated in federal, state and local policy.</u></p> <p>Changes were added to clarify the securing of information on students</p>

<p>8VAC20-70-160.</p>		<p>Review of routes.</p> <p>School bus routes, school sites, and safety of pupils at designated school bus stops shall be reviewed at least once each year. Bus routes shall be reviewed for safety hazards, fuel conservation, and to assure maximum use of buses. Local school administrators shall evaluate the safety of pupils at bus stops periodically and shall at the request of the local school board report the results annually to the school board. Hazardous or unusual situations, to include railway crossings, shall be marked on the route sheet and made available to drivers and substitutes.</p> <p>A written vehicular and pedestrian traffic control plan for each existing school site shall be reviewed annually for safety hazards. All new school site plans shall include provisions that promote vehicular and pedestrian safety.</p>	<p>riding school buses.</p> <p>Review of routes.</p> <p>School bus routes, school sites, and safety of pupils at designated school bus stops shall be reviewed at least once twice each a year once each semester <u>once a year and as changes occur.</u> Bus routes shall be reviewed for safety hazards, and fuel conservation, and to assure maximum the most efficient use of buses. <u>Routes shall be reviewed for safety hazards, fuel conservation, and to assure the most efficient use of buses.</u> Local school administrators shall evaluate the safety of pupils at bus stops periodically and shall at the request of the local school board report the results annually to the school board. Hazardous or unusual situations, to include railway crossings, shall be marked on the route sheet and made available to drivers and substitutes.</p> <p>A written vehicular and pedestrian traffic control plan for each existing school site shall be reviewed annually for safety hazards. All new school site plans shall include provisions that promote vehicular and pedestrian safety.</p> <p>The change does not specify when a school division must review routes, but it must be done at least once a year or when changes occur.</p>
<p>8VAC20-70-170.</p>		<p>Railway crossings.</p> <p>School buses shall stop, as required by law, at railway grade crossings. The 4-way hazard lights shall be activated when approaching the railway grade crossing and deactivated before crossing the track. The bus driver shall turn off all noisy equipment, open the entrance door of the bus and determine when it is safe for the vehicle to cross the railroad tracks. The entrance door shall be closed when the bus is in motion. No stop need be made at any grade crossing where traffic is directed by a police officer or a green traffic-control signal as stated in § 46.2-886 of the Code of Virginia.</p>	<p>Railway crossings.</p> <p>School buses shall stop, as required by law, at railway grade crossings. The School buses equipped with a nonsequential lighting system must have these lighting systems deactivated when approaching a railroad grade crossing <u>and the 4-way hazard lights shall be activated when approaching the railway grade crossing and shall be deactivated before crossing the track.</u> The bus driver shall turn off all noisy equipment, open the entrance door of the bus and determine when it is safe for the vehicle to cross the railroad t racks. The entrance door shall be closed when the bus is in motion. No stop need be made at any grade crossing where traffic is directed</p>

			<p>by a police <u>law-enforcement</u> officer or a green traffic-control signal as stated in § 46.2-886 of the Code of Virginia.</p> <p>This language has been changed to include the procedure for stopping at railway crossings when operating a school bus that has the non-sequential lighting system.</p>
8VAC20-70-180.		<p>Driver reports.</p> <p>School boards shall require that a report on the number of pupils transported and miles traveled be made by all school bus drivers to principals or other designated school officials.</p>	<p>Driver reports. <u>Ridership and miles report.</u></p> <p>School boards shall require that a report on the number of pupils transported and miles traveled be made by all school bus drivers to principals or other designated school officials <u>submitted to designated school officials.</u></p> <p>Change was made to have data submitted to a designated school official.</p>
8VAC20-70-190.		<p>Policies.</p> <p>Local school boards shall adopt policies, consistent with provisions of the Code of Virginia, before establishing a practice of collecting transportation fees from pupils or receiving contributions from other sources for activities sponsored by schools under their authority. No pupil whose parent or guardian is financially unable to pay the pro rata cost of the trip may be denied the opportunity to participate. See § 22.1-176 of the Code of Virginia.</p>	<p>Policies.</p> <p>Local school boards shall adopt policies, consistent with provisions of the Code of Virginia, before establishing a practice of collecting transportation fees from pupils or receiving contributions from other sources for activities sponsored by schools under their authority. No pupil whose parent or guardian is financially unable to pay the pro rata cost of the trip may be denied the opportunity to participate. See § 22.1-176 of the Code of Virginia. <u>Each disabled child enrolled in and attending a special education program provided by the school division shall be entitled to transportation at no cost if such transportation is necessary to enable such child to obtain the benefit of education programs and opportunities. See §22.1-221 A of the Code of Virginia.</u></p> <p>Added language stating that special needs children are entitled to transportation to school.</p>
8VAC20-70-200.		<p>Identification and lights covering.</p> <p>The lettered identification and traffic warning lights on the front and rear of school buses shall be covered with</p>	<p>Identification and lights covering.</p> <p>The lettered identification and traffic warning lights on the front and rear of school buses shall be covered with</p>

		opaque detachable material when they are used for purposes other than to transport pupils on regular routes to and from school, or on special trips to participate in contests of various kinds, and for supplementary education purposes as required by § 22.1-183 of the Code of Virginia. This does not apply when the bus is being used to transport elderly or mentally or physically handicapped persons.	opaque detachable material when they <u>school buses</u> are used for purposes other than to transport pupils on regular routes to and from school, or on special trips to participate in contests of various kinds, and <u>or</u> for supplementary education purposes as required by § 22.1-183 of the Code of Virginia. This does not apply when the bus is being used to transport elderly or mentally or physically handicapped persons. Clarify wording of regulation.
8VAC20-70-210.		Advertising material. The use of posters, stickers, or advertising material of any kind is prohibited in or on school buses unless permitted by law.	No changes to this section.
8VAC20-70-220.		Passage restriction. No object shall be placed on any bus carrying passengers that will restrict the access to any exit.	Passage restriction. No object shall be placed on any bus carrying passengers that will restrict the access to any exit, or restrict the freedom of motion of the driver for proper operation of the vehicle or where displacement of such objects may result in personal injury to passengers. <u>exit, or restrict the freedom of motion of the driver for proper operation of the vehicle. Drivers shall be observant of any objects that may cause injury.</u> This language was added to assist drivers in keeping aisles and emergency exits clear of objects.
8VAC20-70-230.		Required materials. All vehicles used to transport students to and from school or school-related activities shall carry reflective triangles, first aid kit, body fluid clean-up kit and fire extinguisher.	Required materials. All vehicles used <u>primarily</u> to transport students to and from school or school-related activities shall carry reflective triangles, first aid kit, body fluid clean-up kit and fire extinguisher. This was added for clarity.
8VAC20-70-235.		Funding for pupil transportation. Funding for pupil transportation shall be pursuant to the provisions of the appropriation act.	No changes to this section.
	8VAC20-70-271.		<u>Records Retention.</u>

			<p><u>School division documents related to pupil transportation shall be retained in accordance with local policy and guidelines from the Virginia State Library.</u></p> <p>This language was added to clarify for school divisions what should be done with maintenance and employment records.</p>
<p>8VAC20-70-280.</p>		<p>Requirements for school bus drivers both for employment and continued employment.</p> <p>Sections 22.1-178, 46.2-339, and 46.2-340 of the Code of Virginia require drivers of school and activity buses to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Have a physical examination of a scope prescribed by the Board of Education with the advice of the Medical Society of Virginia and furnished on a form prescribed by the Board of Education showing the results of such examination. <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. No person shall drive a school bus unless that person is physically qualified to do so and has submitted a School Bus Driver's Application For Physician's Certificate signed by the applicant and the doctor or a licensed nurse practitioner for the applicable employment period. b. The physical form describes the basic physical qualifications for school bus drivers; however, the examining physician or licensed nurse practitioner shall make the final determination of the individual's physical capacity to operate a school bus based upon their assessment of the individual's overall physical condition. 2. Furnish a statement or copy of records from the Department of Motor Vehicles showing that the person, within the preceding five years, has not been convicted of a charge of driving under the influence of intoxicating liquors or drugs, convicted of a charge of refusing to take a blood or breath test, convicted of a felony, or assigned to any alcohol safety action program or 	<p>Requirements for school bus drivers both for employment and continued employment.</p> <p>Sections <u>Section</u> 22.1-178, 46.2-339, and 46.2-340 of the Code of Virginia require <u>requires</u> drivers of school and activity buses to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Have a physical examination of a scope prescribed by the Board of Education with the advice of the Medical Society of Virginia and furnished on a form prescribed by the Board of Education showing the results of such examination. <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. No person shall drive a school bus unless that person is physically qualified to do so and has submitted a School Bus Driver's Application For Physician's Certificate signed by the applicant and the doctor or a licensed nurse practitioner for the applicable employment period. b. The physical form describes the basic physical qualifications for school bus drivers; however, the examining physician or licensed nurse practitioner shall make the final determination of the individual's physical capacity to operate a school bus based upon their assessment of the individual's overall physical condition. 2. Furnish a statement or copy of records from the Department of Motor Vehicles showing that the person, within the preceding five years, has not been convicted of a charge of driving under the influence of intoxicating liquors or drugs, convicted of a charge of refusing to take a blood or breath test, convicted of a felony, or assigned to any alcohol

		<p>driver alcohol rehabilitation program pursuant to § 18.2-271.1 of the Code of Virginia or, within the preceding 12 months, has not been convicted of two or more moving traffic violations or has not been required to attend a driver improvement clinic by the Commissioner of the Department of Motor Vehicles pursuant to § 46.2-497 of the Code of Virginia.</p> <p>3. Furnish a statement signed by two reputable persons who reside in the school division or in the applicant's community that the person is of good moral character.</p> <p>4. Exhibit a license showing the person has successfully undertaken the examination prescribed by § 46.2-339 of the Code of Virginia.</p> <p>5. Be at least 18 years old.</p> <p>6. Submit to testing for alcohol and controlled substances that is in compliance with the Omnibus Transportation Employee Testing Act of 1991 (Public Law 102-143, Title V) as amended and is in compliance with 49 CFR Parts 40 and 382.</p>	<p>safety action program or driver alcohol rehabilitation program pursuant to § 18.2-271.1 of the Code of Virginia or, within the preceding 12 months, has not been convicted of two or more moving traffic violations or has not been required to attend a driver improvement clinic by the Commissioner of the Department of Motor Vehicles pursuant to § 46.2-497 § 46.2-498 of the Code of Virginia.</p> <p>3. Furnish a statement signed by two reputable persons who reside in the school division or in the applicant's community that the person is of good moral character.</p> <p>4. Exhibit a license showing the person has successfully undertaken the examination prescribed by § 46.2-339 of the Code of Virginia.</p> <p>5. Be at least 18 years old.</p> <p>6. Submit to testing for alcohol and controlled substances that is in compliance with the Omnibus Transportation Employee Testing Act of 1991 (Public Law 102-143, Title V) as amended and <u>that</u> is in compliance with 49 CFR Parts 40 and 382.</p> <p>Removed three Code sites that don't pertain to this section.</p>
<p>8VAC20-70-290.</p>		<p>First aid course.</p> <p>Any school board may require successful completion of the American Red Cross first aid course or its equivalent as a condition to employment to operate a school bus transporting pupils as required by § <u>22.1-178</u> of the Code of Virginia.</p>	<p>No changes to this section.</p>
<p>8VAC20-70-300.</p>		<p>Required documents.</p> <p>The documents required pursuant to 8VAC20-70-280 shall be furnished annually prior to the anniversary date of the employment to operate a school bus.</p>	<p>Required documents.</p> <p>The documents required pursuant to <u>subdivisions 1 and 2</u> of 8VAC20-70-280, shall be furnished annually prior to the anniversary date of the employment to operate a school bus.</p> <p>Language added to clarify that only parts 1 and 2 are required each year.</p>

<p>8VAC20-70-310.</p>		<p>Filing.</p> <p>The documents required pursuant to this section shall be filed with, and made a part of, the records of the school board employing such person as a school bus operator.</p>	<p>Filing—(Repealed)</p> <p>The documents required pursuant to this section shall be filed with, and made a part of, the records of the school board employing such person as a school bus operator.</p> <p>This language is being removed because it has been covered in 8VAC20-70-300.</p>
<p>8VAC20-70-320.</p>		<p>Forms for applicants.</p> <p>The Department of Education shall furnish to the division superintendents the necessary forms for applicants to use to provide the information required by this section. Insofar as practicable, such forms shall be designed to limit paperwork, avoid the possibility of mistakes, and furnish all parties involved with a complete and accurate record of the information required.</p>	<p>No changes to this section.</p>
<p>8VAC20-70-330.</p>		<p>Health certificate.</p> <p>As a condition to employment, every school and activity bus driver shall submit a certificate signed by a licensed physician stating that the employee appears free of communicable tuberculosis. The school board may require the submission of such certificates annually, or at such intervals as it deems appropriate, as a condition to continued employment.</p>	<p>Health certificate.</p> <p>As a condition to employment, every school and activity bus driver shall submit a certificate signed by a licensed physician <u>or nurse practitioner</u> stating that the employee appears free of communicable tuberculosis. The school board may require the submission of such certificates annually or at such intervals as it deems appropriate, as a condition to continued employment.</p> <p>Update language due to revision in the Code of Virginia.</p>
<p>8VAC20-70-340.</p>		<p>Highway driving.</p> <p>No person shall drive a school or activity bus upon a highway in the Commonwealth unless such person has had a reasonable amount of experience in driving motor vehicles, and shall have passed a special examination indicating the ability to operate a school bus without endangering the safety of pupil passengers and persons using the highway as stated in § 46.2-339 of the Code of Virginia. To prepare</p>	<p>No changes to this section.</p>

		<p>for the examination required by this section, any person holding a valid operator's license and Commercial Driver's License (CDL) Instruction Permit issued under the provisions of § 46.2-325 of the Code of Virginia, may operate, under the direct supervision of a person holding a valid school bus license endorsement, a school bus that contains no pupil passengers. The Department of Motor Vehicles is required to adopt such rules and regulations as may be necessary to provide for the examination of persons desiring to qualify to drive such buses in this Commonwealth and for the granting of permits to qualified applicants.</p>	
<p>8VAC20-70-350.</p>		<p>Training.</p> <p>No person shall operate a school or activity bus transporting pupils unless the person has:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Received classroom, demonstration, and behind-the-wheel instruction in accordance with a program developed by the Department of Education pursuant to § 22.1-181 of the Code of Virginia. 2. Completed a minimum of 24 classroom hours and 24 hours of behind-the-wheel training. A minimum of 10 of the 24 hours of behind-the-wheel time shall involve the operation of a bus with pupils on board while under the direct supervision of a designated bus driver trainer. Drivers of Type D buses must complete eight additional hours of training behind-the-wheel. All drivers shall receive training in the operation of a Type D bus and transportation of students with special needs. <p>The superintendent or his designee shall maintain a record showing that the applicant has completed the training and has been approved to operate a school or activity bus.</p>	<p>Training.</p> <p>No person shall operate a school or activity bus transporting pupils unless the person has:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Received classroom, demonstration, and behind-the-wheel instruction in accordance with a program developed by the Department of Education pursuant to § 22.1-181 of the Code of Virginia. 2. Completed a minimum of 24 classroom hours and 24 hours of behind-the-wheel training. A minimum of 10 of the 24 hours of behind-the-wheel time shall involve the operation of a bus with pupils on board while under the direct <u>on-board</u> supervision of a designated bus driver trainer. Drivers of Type D buses must complete eight additional hours of training behind the wheel. All drivers shall receive training in the operation of a Type D bus and transportation of students with special needs. <u>buses representative of the type used in the school division in which they will be employed and in the transportation of students with special needs. Classroom instruction means training provided by a qualified driver instructor through lectures, demonstrations, audio-visual presentations, computer-based instruction, driving simulation devices, or similar means. Instruction occurring outside a classroom is included-qualifies as classroom instruction if it does not</u>

			<p><u>involve actual operation of a school bus and its components by the student trainee. Behind-the-wheel training does not include time spent riding in a school bus or observing operation of a school bus when the student trainee is not in control of the vehicle.</u></p> <p>The superintendent or his designee shall maintain a record showing that the applicant has completed the training and has been approved to operate a school or activity bus.</p> <p><u>3. New transportation directors/supervisors employed by school divisions shall complete the “Train the Trainer” class conducted by the Department of Education within a year after being employed in this position.</u></p> <p>This language clarifies what should be included in training and requires new directors/supervisors to take the “Train the Trainer” class to help them understand what is required of trainers and drivers.</p>
	<p>8VAC20-70-359.</p>		<p>Requirements for school bus driver instructors.—(Repealed)</p> <p>Instructors must meet the requirements of a school bus driver and have at least two years experience operating a Class B type vehicle.</p> <p>This is covered in section 8VAC20-70-411.</p>
<p>8VAC20-70-360.</p>		<p>In-service training.</p> <p>In-service training (at least two hours before opening of schools and at least two hours during the second half of the school year) devoted to improving the skills, attitudes, and knowledge including orientation to maximize benefits of using safety programs and safety components shall be provided to all school or activity bus drivers.</p>	<p>In-service training.</p> <p>In-service training (at least two hours before opening before the opening of schools the school year and at least two hours during the second half of the school year) (at least two hours before the opening of the school year and at least two hours during the second half of the school year) devoted to improving the skills, attitudes, and knowledge including orientation to maximize benefits of using safety programs and safety components shall be provided to all school or activity bus drivers. <u>In-service training shall should include, but</u></p>

			<p><u>is not limited to, the following topics: basic motor vehicle laws, related administrative codes, pre-trip inspection procedures, student discipline and conduct, drug and alcohol testing procedures and policies, fuel conservation, safety, emergency procedures, student information and confidentiality, and local policies and procedures as required by the division's transportation department. A copy of the agenda for each in-service training event shall be on file in the school division.</u></p> <p>This language provides a variety of topics that should be covered in in-service training.</p>
88VAC20-70-370.		<p>Supervision.</p> <p>The drivers of school and activity buses shall be under the general direction and control of the superintendent or designee, and shall also be accountable to the principal of the school to which transportation is provided.</p>	<p>Supervision.</p> <p>The drivers of school and activity buses shall be under the general direction and control of the <u>division</u> superintendent or designee, and shall also be accountable to the principal of the school to which <u>pupil</u> transportation is provided.</p> <p>Language added for clarity.</p>
88VAC20-70-380.		<p>Pre-trip safety inspection.</p> <p>The drivers of school and activity buses shall perform a daily pre-trip safety inspection of the vehicle prior to transporting children. The items checked and recorded shall be at least equal to the pre-trip inspection procedure as prescribed by the Department of Education.</p>	<p>Pre-trip safety inspection.</p> <p>The <u>Prior to the initial transporting of children each day the</u> drivers of school and activity buses shall perform a daily pre-trip safety inspection of the vehicle prior to transporting children. The items checked and recorded shall be at least equal to the pre-trip inspection procedure as prescribed by <u>in the Preventive Maintenance Manual for Virginia School Buses (November, 2008)</u> issued by the Department of Education.</p> <p>Language added to clarify the requirement.</p>
88VAC20-70-400.		<p>Evaluation.</p> <p>Each school and activity bus driver shall be evaluated by the transportation director or designee at least once each year. The results of the evaluation shall be discussed with the driver and included in the driver's personnel file.</p>	<p>No changes to this section.</p>
88VAC20-70-410.		<p>Emergency equipment.</p>	

		The driver of activity or extracurricular trip buses shall advise the pupils and/or sponsors of the location of the required emergency equipment and exits prior to the beginning of any such trip.	No changes to this section.
	8VAC20-70-411.		<p>Driver Trainers.</p> <p>Driver Behind-the-wheel driver trainers must meet the requirements of 8VAC20-70-280 and 8VAC20-70-350 and have at least two years experience operating a Class B vehicle must have maintained a <u>Class B license for two years prior to functioning as a behind-the-wheel driver trainer.</u></p> <p>This language has been added to ensure trainers are qualified to provide behind-the-wheel training.</p>
8VAC20-70-420.		<p>Instructor course certificate.</p> <p>Local school bus driver training instructors shall hold a certificate for completion of an instructor course conducted or approved by the Department of Education and shall attend a recertification course every five years.</p>	<p>Instructor course certificate.</p> <p>Local school bus driver training instructors shall hold a certificate for completion of an instructor course conducted or approved by the Department of Education and shall attend a recertification course every five years. <u>Certification expires at the end of the calendar year five.</u></p> <p>This added language allows trainers to train until the end of the calendar year instead of their certification running out five years from the actual date of their certification course.</p>
8VAC20-70-430.		<p>Driver data.</p> <p>The names and driver license numbers of persons operating school and activity buses used to transport pupils shall be submitted to the Department of Motor Vehicles annually as required by § 46.2-340 of the Code of Virginia.</p>	<p>Driver data.</p> <p>The names and driver license numbers of persons operating school and activity buses <u>and other vehicles</u> used to transport pupils shall be submitted to the Department of Motor Vehicles annually as required by § 46.2-340 of the Code of Virginia.</p> <p>Language added for clarity.</p>
	8VAC20-70-435.		<p>Filing.</p> <p><u>The documents required pursuant to 8VAC20-70-280, 8VAC20-70-350, 8VAC20-70-360, 8VAC20-70-400 and 8VAC20-70-420 shall be filed with, and</u></p>

			<p><u>made a part of, the records of the school board employing such person as a school bus operator.</u></p> <p>This language clarifies what records need to be maintained by the school division.</p>
8VAC20-70-440.		<p>Responsibility for compliance.</p> <p>The responsibility for compliance with the school bus and activity vehicle specifications issued by the Department of Education rests with dealers and manufacturers. If any dealer or manufacturer sells school buses or school activity vehicles that do not conform to any or all of the specifications issued by the Department of Education, a general notice will be sent to all school divisions advising that equipment supplied by such dealer or manufacturer will be disapproved for school transportation until further notice. A copy of the notice will be sent to the dealer or manufacturer and will remain in effect until full compliance by the dealer or manufacturer is assured.</p> <p>Dealers and manufacturers shall be given at least 30 days' notice of any changes in the specifications.</p>	<p>No changes made to this section.</p>
8VAC20-70-450.		<p>Minimum standards <u>specifications.</u></p> <p>Minimum standards are applicable to all school buses and school activity vehicles, new or used, procured by purchase, lease or operational contract from another person or entity.</p>	<p>Minimum standards <u>specifications.</u></p> <p>Minimum standards <u>specifications</u> are applicable to all school buses and school activity vehicles <u>buses</u>, new or used, procured by purchase, lease or operational contract from another person or entity.</p> <p>Language changed for clarification.</p>
8VAC20-70-460.		<p>Specifications.</p> <p>It is the intent of the Board of Education to accommodate new equipment and technology that will better facilitate the safe and efficient transportation of students. When a new technology, piece of equipment, or component is desired to be applied to the school bus, it must have the approval of the Virginia Department of</p>	<p>Specifications.</p> <p>It is the intent of the Board of Education to accommodate new equipment and technology that will better facilitate the safe and efficient transportation of students. When a new technology, piece of equipment, or component is desired to be applied to the a school bus, it must have the approval of the Virginia Department of Education and must meet</p>

		<p>Education and must meet the following criteria:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The technology, equipment, or component shall not compromise the effectiveness or integrity of any major safety system. 2. The technology, equipment, or component shall not diminish the safety of the interior of the bus. 3. The technology, equipment, or component shall not create additional risk to students who are boarding or exiting the bus or are in or near the school bus loading zone. 4. The technology, equipment, or component shall not require undue additional activity or responsibility for the driver. 5. The technology, equipment, or component shall generally increase efficiency or safety, or both, of the bus, generally provide for a safer or more pleasant experience for the occupants and pedestrians in the vicinity of the bus, or shall generally assist the driver and make his many tasks easier to perform. <p>Buses and school activity vehicles must conform to the specifications relative to construction and design effective on the date of procurement. Any variation from the specifications, in the form of additional equipment or changes in style of equipment, without prior approval of the Department of Education, is prohibited. The Department of Education shall issue specifications and standards for public school buses to reflect desired technology or safety improvements for the then current model year.</p>	<p>the following criteria:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The technology, equipment, or component shall not compromise the effectiveness or integrity of any major safety system. 2. The technology, equipment, or component shall not diminish the safety of the interior of the bus. 3. The technology, equipment, or component shall not create additional risk to students who are boarding or exiting the bus or are in or near the school bus loading zone. 4. The technology, equipment, or component shall not require undue additional activity or responsibility for the driver. 5. The technology, equipment, or component shall generally increase efficiency or safety, or both, of the bus, generally provide for a safer or more pleasant experience for the occupants and pedestrians in the vicinity of the bus, or shall generally assist the driver and make his many tasks easier to perform. <p>vehicles <u>School buses</u> and school activity <u>buses</u> must conform to the specifications relative to construction and design effective on the date of procurement. Any variation from the specifications, in the form of additional equipment or changes in style of equipment, without prior approval of the Department of Education, is prohibited. The Department of Education shall issue specifications and standards for public school buses to reflect desired technology or safety improvements for the then current model year.</p> <p>Language changed for clarity.</p>
<p>8VAC20-70-470.</p>		<p>Adjustments.</p> <p>The Superintendent of Public Instruction is authorized to make such adjustments from time to time in</p>	<p>No changes to this section.</p>

		<p>technical specifications as are deemed necessary in the interest of safety and efficiency in school bus operation. This includes the issuance of chassis specifications by size, type and model year. Authority is also granted for conducting investigations and field tests of certain pertinent vehicle components.</p>	
8VAC20-70-480.		<p>Bus identification.</p> <p>All publicly owned, part publicly owned, or contract school buses, transporting pupils to and from public school, shall be painted a uniform color, national school bus yellow, and shall be identified and equipped as outlined in the standards and specifications.</p>	<p>Bus identification.</p> <p>All publicly owned, part publicly owned, or contract school buses, transporting pupils to and from public school, shall be painted a uniform color, national school bus yellow, and shall be identified and equipped as outlined in the standards and specifications.</p> <p>Language changed for clarity.</p>
8VAC20-70-490.		<p>Purchase.</p> <p>The responsibility for purchasing school buses and school activity vehicles which meet state and federal requirements rests with division superintendents and local school boards.</p> <p>A schedule for the replacement of buses on a continuing basis shall be developed and implemented by each school division.</p>	<p>Purchase.</p> <p>The responsibility for purchasing school buses and school activity vehicles <u>buses</u> which meet state and federal requirements rests with division superintendents and local school boards.</p> <p>A schedule for the replacement of buses on a continuing basis shall be developed and implemented by each school division.</p> <p>Language changed for clarity.</p>
8VAC20-70-500.		<p>Sale of surplus school buses.</p> <p>A. Before a surplus school bus is sold or released for nonschool transportation purposes, the bus shall have the traffic warning signal system and crossing control arm removed and all school bus lettering shall be covered by an opaque paint. A written notice shall be attached to the Certificate of Title stating that the vehicle does not meet the requirements of §§ 46.2-100 and 46.2-1089 and that its operation on the highway would be in violation of § 46.2-917 of the Code of Virginia.</p> <p>B. In the event that the bus is sold to a private school or a licensed dealer, the written notice shall contain a reminder</p>	<p>No changes to this section.</p>

		<p>that the bus shall be painted a different color, and shall have the bus signal systems and lettering removed before release for nonschool transportation purposes.</p>	
<p>8VAC20-70-510.</p>		<p>Vehicles powered by alternative fuels.</p> <p>A. The Board of Education will continue to promote the use of alternative fuels for school buses. Any vehicle powered by alternative fuels will be subject to inspection and approval by the Virginia Department of Education.</p> <p>B. Local school divisions, in consultation with the Department of Education, may purchase and use school buses using alternative fuels as covered in § 22.1-177 of the Code of Virginia.</p> <p>C. Installation of alternative fuel tanks and fuel systems shall comply with all applicable Federal Motor Vehicles Safety Standards (FMVSS) 301, 49 CFR Part 571, and all applicable fire codes.</p> <p>D. A sign with black letters on clear or school bus yellow background, indicating the type of alternative fuel being used, may be placed on the side of the bus near the entrance door. No sign shall be more than 4-3/4 inches long or more than 3-1/4 inches high.</p>	<p>Vehicles powered by alternative fuels.</p> <p>A. The Board of Education will continue to promote the use of alternative fuels for school buses. Any vehicle powered by alternative fuels will be subject to inspection and approval by the Virginia Department of Education.</p> <p>B. Local school divisions, in consultation with the Department of Education, may purchase and use school buses using alternative fuels as covered in § 22.1-177 of the Code of Virginia.</p> <p>C. Installation of alternative fuel tanks and fuel systems shall comply with all applicable Federal Motor Vehicles Safety Standards (FMVSS) 301, 49 CFR Part 571, and all applicable fire codes.</p> <p>D. A sign with black letters on clear or school bus yellow background, indicating the type of alternative fuel being used, may be placed on the side of the bus near the entrance door. No sign shall be more than 4-3/4 inches long or more than 3-1/4 inches high.</p> <p>Item D is covered in the specifications.</p>
<p>8VAC20-70-525.</p>		<p>Regulations and standards.</p> <p>Activity vehicles owned or operated under contract by or for the school board, which are used solely to transport pupils to and from school activity events, shall comply with all applicable regulations and standards prescribed for school buses except as noted in this part.</p> <p>1. Exceptions, general regulations.</p> <p>a. An activity vehicle transporting school pupils shall be operated at a safe, legal speed not in excess of 55 miles per hour.</p>	<p>Regulations and standards.</p> <p>Activity vehicles <u>A. School activity buses</u> owned or operated under contract by or for the school board, which are used solely to transport pupils to and from school activity events, shall comply with all applicable regulations and standards prescribed for school buses except as noted in this part.</p> <p>1.B. Exceptions, general regulations.</p> <p>a. An activity vehicle <u>1. Pursuant to §46.2-871 of the Code of Virginia an activity bus</u> transporting school pupils shall be operated at a safe, legal speed</p>

		<p>b. No standees shall be permitted.</p> <p>c. The eight-inch school bus lettered identification and traffic warning devices shall be removed by the local school division as required by §§ 46.2-100 and 46.2-1090 of the Code of Virginia. The name of the school division or individual school shall be placed on both sides of the vehicle.</p> <p>d. Stops for the purpose of loading or discharging pupils on the travel portion of the highway shall not be permitted.</p> <p>2. Exceptions, minimum standards for school buses in Virginia.</p> <p>a. School activity vehicles shall not be painted national school bus yellow.</p> <p>b. Other types of seats and increased spacing may be used provided all provisions of FMVSS 222, 49 CFR § 571.222, are met.</p>	<p>not in excess of 55 miles per hour.</p> <p>b. 2. No standees shall be permitted.</p> <p>e. The eight-inch school bus lettered identification and traffic warning devices shall be removed by the local school division as required by §§ 46.2-100 and 46.2-1090 of the Code of Virginia. The name of the school division or individual school shall be placed on both sides of the vehicle.</p> <p>3. Stops for the purpose of loading or discharging pupils on the travel portion of the highway shall not be permitted.</p> <p>2. Exceptions, minimum standards for school buses in Virginia.</p> <p>a. School activity vehicles shall not be painted national school bus yellow.</p> <p>b. Other types of seats and increased spacing may be used provided all provisions of FMVSS 222, 49 CFR § 571.222, are met.</p> <p>Changed 1.a. to reference the Code section instead of setting out details. Deleted 1.c. because it is covered in specifications. Deleted 2.a. and b. because they are covered in specifications.</p>
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The physical form and the Preventive Maintenance Manual have been updated to reflect the changes to the Regulations.

Regulatory flexibility analysis

Please describe the agency's analysis of alternative regulatory methods, consistent with health, safety, environmental, and economic welfare, that will accomplish the objectives of applicable law while minimizing the adverse impact on small business. Alternative regulatory methods include, at a minimum: 1) the establishment of less stringent compliance or reporting requirements; 2) the establishment of less stringent schedules or deadlines for compliance or reporting requirements; 3) the consolidation or simplification of compliance or reporting requirements; 4) the establishment of performance standards for small businesses to replace design or operational standards required in the proposed regulation; and 5) the exemption of small businesses from all or any part of the requirements contained in the proposed regulation.

Crash Reporting (8VAC20-70-140) will eliminate the reporting of all incidents, such as hitting mirrors, backing into something, hitting mailboxes, etc. Reports will have to be filed with the Department of Education on any crash that involves \$1,500 or more property damage or injuries.

Maintenance Inspection (8VAC20-70-130) extends the time period for maintenance inspections from every 30 operating days or 2,500 miles to every 45 school days or 5,000 miles. This should reduce the number of inspections done per year providing cost savings to school divisions.

Family impact

Please assess the impact of the proposed regulatory action on the institution of the family and family stability including to what extent the regulatory action will: 1) strengthen or erode the authority and rights of parents in the education, nurturing, and supervision of their children; 2) encourage or discourage economic self-sufficiency, self-pride, and the assumption of responsibility for oneself, one's spouse, and one's children and/or elderly parents; 3) strengthen or erode the marital commitment; and 4) increase or decrease disposable family income.

Neither current law nor the pupil transportation regulations require Virginia students to ride public school buses. However, to the extent that students ride public school buses, these regulations will provide standards and requirements to help ensure the safety of children.

Several changes will increase the safety of school buses, thus further ensuring the safety of children being transported to and from public schools and promoting family well-being. There is no negative impact on the welfare of the family.

The provision of safe, free transportation to and from public school can provide economic assistance to parents by eliminating the need for parents to transport their children to and from school.